

# WORLD DOMINION

The World Dominion Movement advocates Informed Continuous Co-ordinated Evangelism to reach everyone at home and abroad. Its basis is belief in the Deity and Atoning Death of the Lord Jesus Christ, the World's Only Saviour, and in the Final Authority of Holy Scripture.

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## Nurseries of the Church

### A Brief Appraisal of Sunday School Work in the World

Sunday Schools in the 129 countries into which they have spread have played a larger part in missionary expansion than appears generally to have been recognized. It is a remarkable fact that while Sunday School scholars have been decreasing in Europe they have been increasing in some Mission lands. The most notable example of this is Africa, where they had increased fifty per cent during the quadrennial ending in 1936. It is no mean achievement that there are more than 1,500,000 scholars and 81,522 teachers in that continent. This probably represents about one-third of the children of Protestant Christians. Without question, what the Sunday School is to-day the Church will become to-morrow.

In Asia, as a whole, the proportion of children attending Sunday Schools varies greatly. In Burma the proportion is one-third; in China and Formosa one-half; in Palestine one-seventh; in Siam three-quarters, and in the Netherlands Indies one-fifth.

The number of children in Asia, excluding Asiatic Russia, is probably 290,000,000, of whom 3,000,000 (roughly one in a hundred) belong to Protestant communities. The Sunday School is touching only about one-quarter of these, yet in Asia, even more than in Africa, Sunday Schools are a most important evangelistic method. What we see in Japan holds true of other countries in Asia. There, a very large proportion of those who have joined the Church have had an early Sunday School training. In the planting of the Japanese Church, students and youth in general have proved the most accessible, and they constitute the majority at almost every meeting of the Church.

In Latin America and the West Indies there has been a marked growth in Sunday School work. Paraguay, Peru, Honduras and Panama show decreases, but Central America and Mexico have increased by fifty per cent, and, in the whole of the sub-continent there is an increase of twenty-four per cent. The whole movement, with its 6,000 schools and 300,000 scholars, is full of significance for the future of the Church in Latin America. Nevertheless, complacency is forbidden by the fact that at least 100,000 Protestant children are still outside Sunday Schools. In the West Indies, Sunday Schools and their work show an increase of fifty per cent, though 200,000 children still remain outside them. This is a challenge to yet greater efforts.

As we review the whole non-Christian world and note that there cannot be less than eight million Protestant children, of whom considerably less than one-half are cared for by the Sunday School, we perceive the importance of pressing forward our efforts on their behalf.